

ABSOLUTE

Wonder Woman



ALL IN

15+
TEEN+

11



THOMPSON
SHERMAN
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HS
ZS

IT'S A NEW DAY IN GOTHAM.

BATMAN

#1

Superstars
MATT FRACTION
and **JORGE JIMÉNEZ**
introduce an unforgettable
era of monthly adventures
starring the Caped Crusader



© & TM DC.



A fresh start for
DC's flagship
series begins in
SEPTEMBER

THE MAZE,
AREA 41.
NOW.

THE
HALLUCINOGENIC
FLOWERS HAVE
OVERWHELMED
ME...

...AND THE
SCIENTIST I
DOVE INTO
THE PIT TO
PROTECT.



CLING

NOW I FACE AN
UNKNOWN ASSAILANT
ON UNFAMILIAR GROUND,
WHILE UNABLE TO TRUST
ANY OF MY SENSES.

THIS IS
MADNESS.

I COULD KILL
SOMEONE FIGHTING
BLIND LIKE THIS. I
CANNOT ALLOW THAT.

THUNK

I WILL
NOT.



REYNOLD
WHELED THE
CART.

MY WORDS
ARE SLURRED
AND GARBLED,
WHICH MEANS I
CANNOT CAST
AS USUAL.

UNLESS...MY
WORDS ARE FINE,
AND IT'S ONLY MY
PERCEPTION
OF THEM THAT
HAS CHANGED?

ALLOW ME TO
SEE, ATHENA.
TO SEE WHAT IS
REAL AND TRUE,
BUT HIDDEN
FROM ME.



STRIKE ME
DOWN BEFORE
ALLOWING ME
TO HURT AN
INNOCENT.

STRIKE ME
DOWN BEFORE
ALLOWING ME
TO HURT AN
INNOCENT.

2/10/14
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ABSOLUTE WONDER WOMAN

AS MY MOTHERS MADE ME

PART 4 of 5

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ASSISTANT
EDITOR

CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

BEFORE.
THE WILD
ISLE. HELL.



GODDESS...
WILL YOU ALWAYS
BE ANGRY WITH
ME?

ANGRY?



I KNOW
YOU DO
NOT LIKE HOW
I AM, THAT I
DISAPPOINT
YOU.



NO,
NO PRINCESS,
THAT IS NOT
TRUE.

YOU
DELIGHT
ME.

BUT I
CONFESS YOU
CONFOUND
ME.



MY
DISCIPLES ARE
MORE LIKE ME
THAN YOU
ARE.

THEY FIND ME
BECAUSE THEY ARE
RESPONDING TO SOMETHING
IN THEMSELVES THAT IS
ALSO IN ME. IT SPEAKS
TRUTH TO THEIR
SOULS.

AND SO
WE UNDERSTAND
ONE ANOTHER
WELL.



YOU
DID NOT SEEK ME
OUT, AND WE DO NOT
UNDERSTAND ONE
ANOTHER.

...I'M
SORRY.



DO NOT
BE SORRY,
PRINCESS.

I THINK...
IT'S **GOOD**
YOU ARE NOT
LIKE ME.

YOU
ARE INSTEAD
LIKE ALL OF
US.

YOU ARE
CLEVER IN A
WAY THAT I
AM NOT.

YOU
ARE KIND AND
COMPASSIONATE IN A
WAY I DO NOT EVEN
COMPREHEND.

YOU ARE
CREATIVE AND TAKE
A LONG VIEW, WHILE
I AM OFTEN
IMPATIENT.

YOU
ARE THE
BEST OF ALL
OF US.



AND THE WORLD IS
LUCKY FOR THIS, EVEN IF
IT MEANS YOU WILL ALWAYS
CONFOUND ME WITH YOUR
UNEXPECTED WAYS. THIS,
TOO, IS A GIFT TO
THE WORLD.

NOW. TAKE
YOUR STONE. AND
USE YOUR MAGIC
ON IT.

WHAT
KIND OF
MAGIC?



MAKE THE HYDRA
LOVE THE STONE,
SEEK IT OUT.

WHY
SHOULD
I?





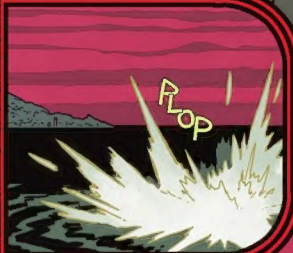
NOW
THROW IT
INTO THE
WATER.

HARD AS
I CAN?

MAYBE
NOT THAT
HARD.



ZOOOOOM



NOW BRING
IT BACK TO ME.
NO MAGIC.

...B-BUT
THE HYDRA.

YES THE
HYDRA.



REMEMBER WHAT WE
SAID ABOUT CHOOSING THE
RIGHT WEAPONS. IT CAN
BE EVERYTHING.

...I
REMEMBER.



WELL DONE, PRINCESS. MAYBE YOU ARE A BIT LIKE ME.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

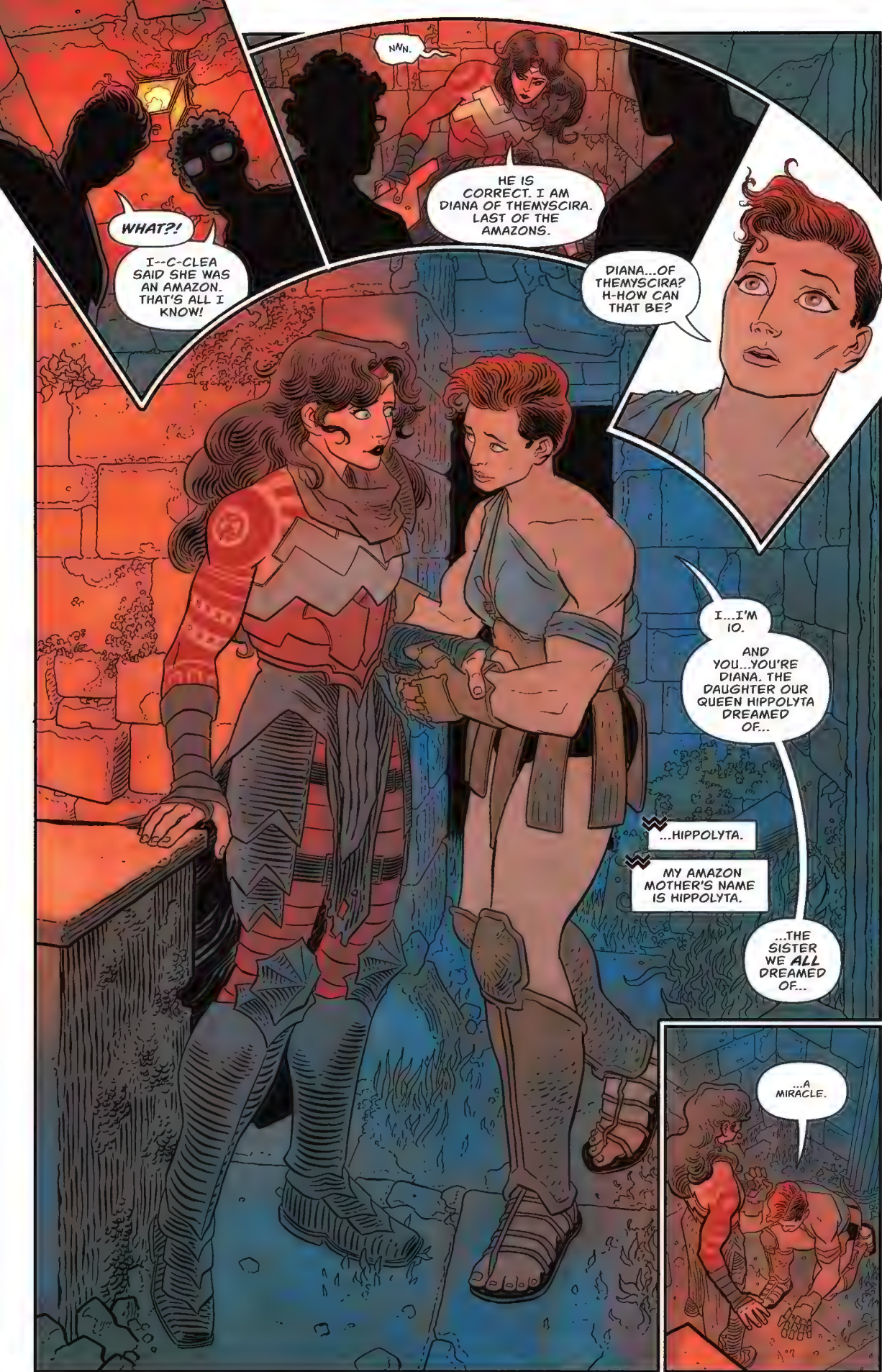
THE HYDRA AND I...WE MADE A BARGAIN.

I LET HER KEEP MY AXE UNTIL I BRING IT BACK TO HER.

CONFOUNDING CHILD

YOU SAID CHOOSE THE RIGHT WEAPON. THE RIGHT WEAPON WAS BARGAIN!





WHAT?!

I--C-CLEA
SAID SHE WAS
AN AMAZON.
THAT'S ALL I
KNOW!

NWN.

HE IS
CORRECT. I AM
DIANA OF THEMYSKIRA.
LAST OF THE
AMAZONS.

DIANA...OF
THEMYSKIRA?
H-HOW CAN
THAT BE?

I...I'M
IO.

AND
YOU...YOU'RE
DIANA. THE
DAUGHTER OUR
QUEEN HIPPOLYTA
DREAMED
OF...

...HIPPOLYTA.

MY AMAZON
MOTHER'S NAME
IS HIPPOLYTA.

...THE
SISTER
WE ALL
DREAMED
OF...

...A
MIRACLE.

THE
MIRACLE IS *YOU*,
SISTER.

I HAVE
DREAMED
OF MEETING
A SISTER
SINCE I WAS
A CHILD.

YES, THE
MIRACLE
IS YOU.

WAIT...
WHY HAVE YOU
NEVER MET AN
AMAZON?

IT IS A
LONG STORY,
SISTER, AND
THERE'S LITTLE
TIME FOR THAT IN
THIS CURSED
MAZE.

BUT NOT
LONG AFTER MY
BIRTH I WAS TAKEN
FROM THE AMAZONS
AND RAISED IN THE
UNDERWORLD BY THE
SORCERESS CIRCE,
WITH A LITTLE
HELP FROM THE
GODDESSES.

I AM...OR I
WAS, UNTIL I CAME
TO THIS CURSED PLACE,
LIVING IN GATEWAY CITY,
CALIFORNIA, TRYING TO HELP
HUMANITY AND SEARCHING
FOR THEMYSKIRA...
SEARCHING FOR
ALL OF YOU.

CIRCE?

I...HAVE
MISSED
MUCH, IT
SEEMS.

I FELL ON
AN ANCIENT
FIELD OF BATTLE.
THOUGHT I WAS
DEAD. AWOKÉ
SOMEHOW IN THE
MAZE, BURIED
UNDERGROUND.

A
MAP OF THE
MAZE TATTOOED
ON YOUR BODY?
INGENIOUS.

I SEE
YOU HAVE BEEN
TRAPPED HERE FOR
A VERY LONG
TIME.

AND THEN
HUMANITY
FOUND THE
MAZE. I'M
SORRY TO SAY,
CONDITIONS
DID **NOT**
IMPROVE.

SHOW
ME, IO.

BUT
WE MUST
BE QUICK.
MY FRIEND
FERDINAND IS
STILL ABOVE,
AND LIKELY
IN MORTAL
DANGER.



FERDINAND HELPED MANY OF THESE PEOPLE, DIANA. I'VE HEARD THEIR STORIES.

IT WILL BE EASY TO CONVINCE THEM TO RISE UP IF HE IS IN NEED.

I HOPE IT WILL NOT COME TO THAT.

WHEN CLEA AND HER MINIONS THREW ME DOWN HERE, I FOUND... WELL, I FOUND A NIGHTMARE. EVEN WORSE THAN THE MAZE ABOVE, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT.

OVER TIME, WITH THE HELP OF OTHER SURVIVORS, WE BUILT IT INTO A REAL COMMUNITY. IT'S STILL A NIGHTMARISH PRISON, THERE'S NO ESCAPING THAT...

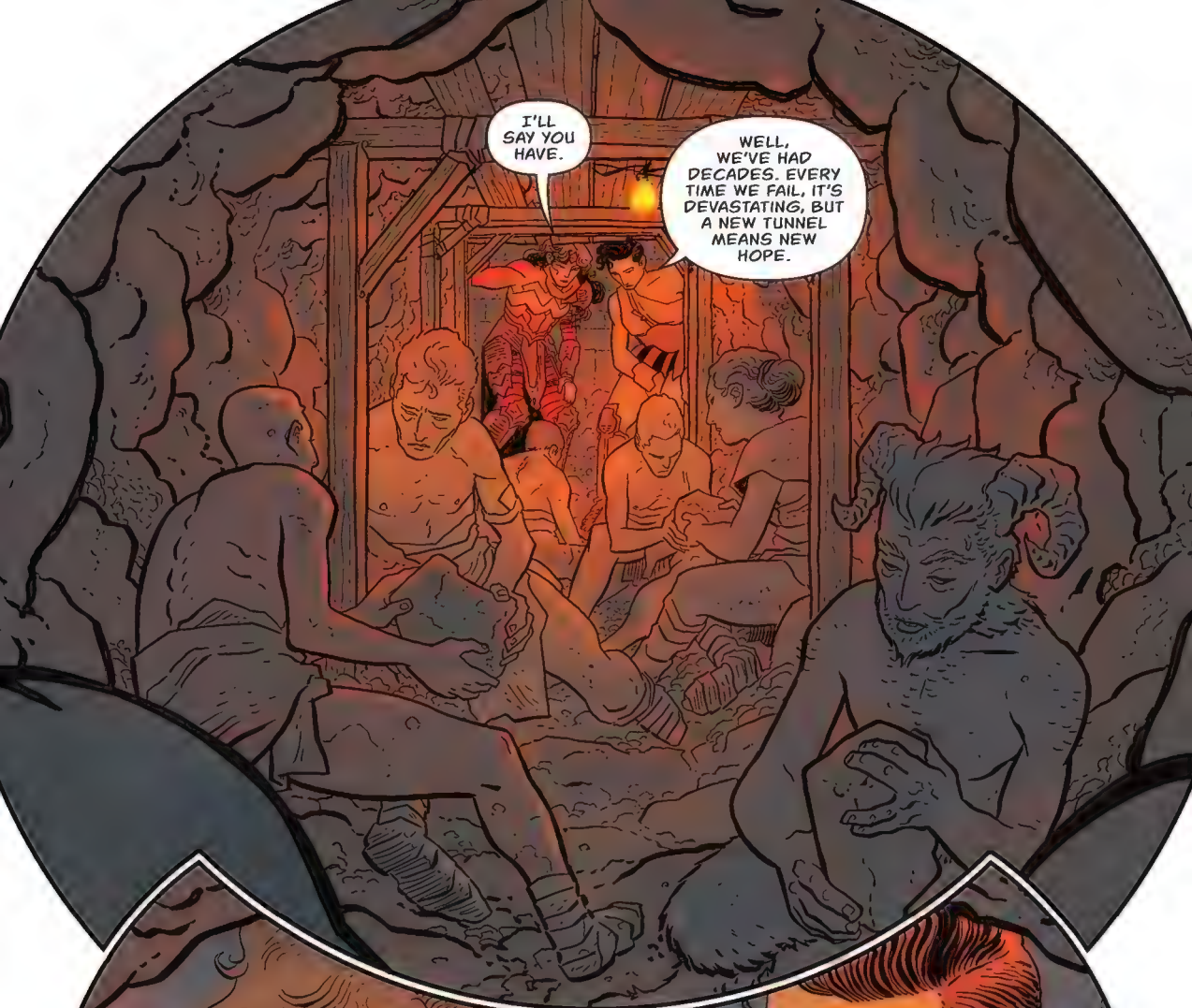
...BUT WE CALLED IT **NEW HOPE** BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT IT REPRESENTED FOR US...

...EVEN IF THAT NEW HOPE WAS ONLY THE HOPE THAT WE MIGHT NOW SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FREE OURSELVES.



FREE YOURSELVES?

WE'VE BEEN DIGGING.



I'LL SAY YOU HAVE.

WELL, WE'VE HAD DECADES. EVERY TIME WE FAIL, IT'S DEVASTATING, BUT A NEW TUNNEL MEANS NEW HOPE.



AS I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WELL, HOPE SUSTAINS US MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

...I DO.



THIS IS OUR SIXTH, BUT IN MY OPINION MOST PROMISING, ATTEMPT.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE FAILED ATTEMPTS?

SOMETIMES WE HIT METAL OR STONE WE CAN'T GET PAST...EVEN WITH MY STRENGTH, OUR RESOURCES ARE IMPOSSIBLY LIMITED.



SOMETIMES THE TUNNELS COLLAPSE OR THREATEN THE INTEGRITY OF THE STRUCTURE ITSELF...AND WITH NOWHERE TO ESCAPE TO, WE HAVE TO GIVE UP ON THE TUNNEL.

ONE TIME, WE HIT SEA-WATER.



IO. SHOW ME THAT ONE.

OF COURSE, SISTER.

13003

YOU *DID* SAY YOU WERE RAISED BY CIRCE. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY MAGIC.

HEH. CAN YOUR MAGIC GET US OUT OF HERE?

YES.

WHAT?

I HAVE AN EXIT, BUT GETTING ALL OF US *TO* THE EXIT WITHOUT CLEA PICKING US OFF IS GOING TO BE THE TRICKY PART.

SISTER... IS THE GROUND LOWER HERE?

UH...YES. YES, WE'RE CLOSE TO WHERE THE SEA-WATER BEGAN COMING IN. WE HAVE TO SHORE IT UP REGULARLY WITH STONE AND MUD.

AN AMAZON COULD SURVIVE THIS.

IO COULD HAVE BROKEN THROUGH AND SIMPLY SWUM TO HER FREEDOM.

INSTEAD, SHE STAYED WITH THESE PEOPLE FOR *DECADES* SO AS NOT TO ABANDON THEM.

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THE FAMILY I WAS STOLEN FROM WAS GREAT AND WORTHY.

CONFIRMATION OF THIS LONG-HELD BELIEF WASHES OVER ME WITH A POWER THAT NEARLY BRINGS ME TO MY KNEES.

...AND NOW
WE ARE BACK
WHERE WE
BEGAN.

YOU
HAVE DONE
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL
HERE, IO, WITH
SO LITTLE...
IT REMINDS
ME OF MY
YOUTH.

NOW
LET'S GET
ALL OF YOU
OUT OF
HERE.

FIRST...
IS THERE A
WAY OUT OF
NEW HOPE
THAT ISN'T
THE PIT?

YES.
THAT'S THE **FIRST**
TUNNEL WE DUG...TO
THE MAIN LEVEL. WE
USE IT SPARINGLY
FOR OBVIOUS
REASONS.



YOU
KNOW THIS
PLACE?

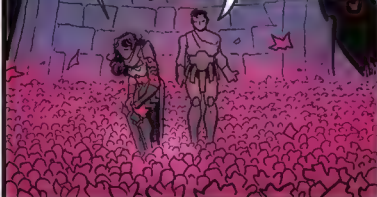
YES...BUT
IT'S NOTHING
SPECIAL.

IT
IS NOW.
IT'S OUR
EXIT.

WHY DOESN'T
CLEA EVER
COME DOWN
HERSELF?

THERE **WAS**
A BEAST DOWN
HERE. IT KILLED
EVERYTHING SHE
SENT DOWN.

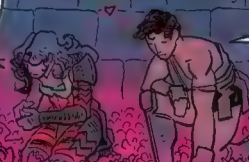
...I DID **TRY**
TO REASON WITH
IT. WE CONTINUE
THE ILLUSION THAT IT LIVES
SO SHE WILL LEAVE
US ALONE.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
DIANA?

I CANNOT RISK
THESE FLOWERS
TAKING HOLD OF ME
AGAIN. I'LL NEED
AN IMMUNITY.

YOU
CAN DO
THAT?



YES. I ALSO
NEED A POWERFUL
HEALING SPELL FOR
FERDINAND.

AND...THERE
IS SOMETHING
ELSE HERE.

SOMETHING?

SOMETHING
SENTIENT. I
THINK IT'S GOING
TO HELP US TO
ALL SURVIVE
THIS.

WELL,
EVERYTHING
YOU'RE SAYING IS
LIKE THE GREATEST
NEWS I'VE HEARD
IN SEVERAL
DECADES.

WHAT
CAN I DO TO
HELP?



GET YOUR PEOPLE READY TO MOVE. AND PROTECT THIS WITH YOUR LIFE.

WHEN YOU GET TO THE MARK OF HECAE ON THE WALL, BREAK THIS BAUBLE ON IT.

IT WILL OPEN A DOOR INTO MY HOME IN GATEWAY CITY. LEAD YOUR PEOPLE THERE.

BUT I WILL DESTROY THIS MAZE, SO MAKE SURE YOU GET EVERYONE.

IS THIS GOODBYE, DIANA?

I HOPE NOT. BUT I CANNOT RISK LEADING CLEA TO YOU.

DO **NOT** WAIT FOR ME.

...THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT.

I KNOW.

HERA LOVE AND PROTECT YOU, DIANA.

HERA LOVE AND PROTECT YOU, IO.

...IF WE DO NOT MEET AGAIN...

...PLEASE TELL HIPPOLYTA AND MY SISTERS I LOVE THEM AND WILL NEVER STOP SEARCHING FOR THEM.

IO...



I KNOW
YOU ARE HERE.
REVEAL YOURSELF
SO THAT TOGETHER
WE MAY ESCAPE
THIS CURSED
PLACE.

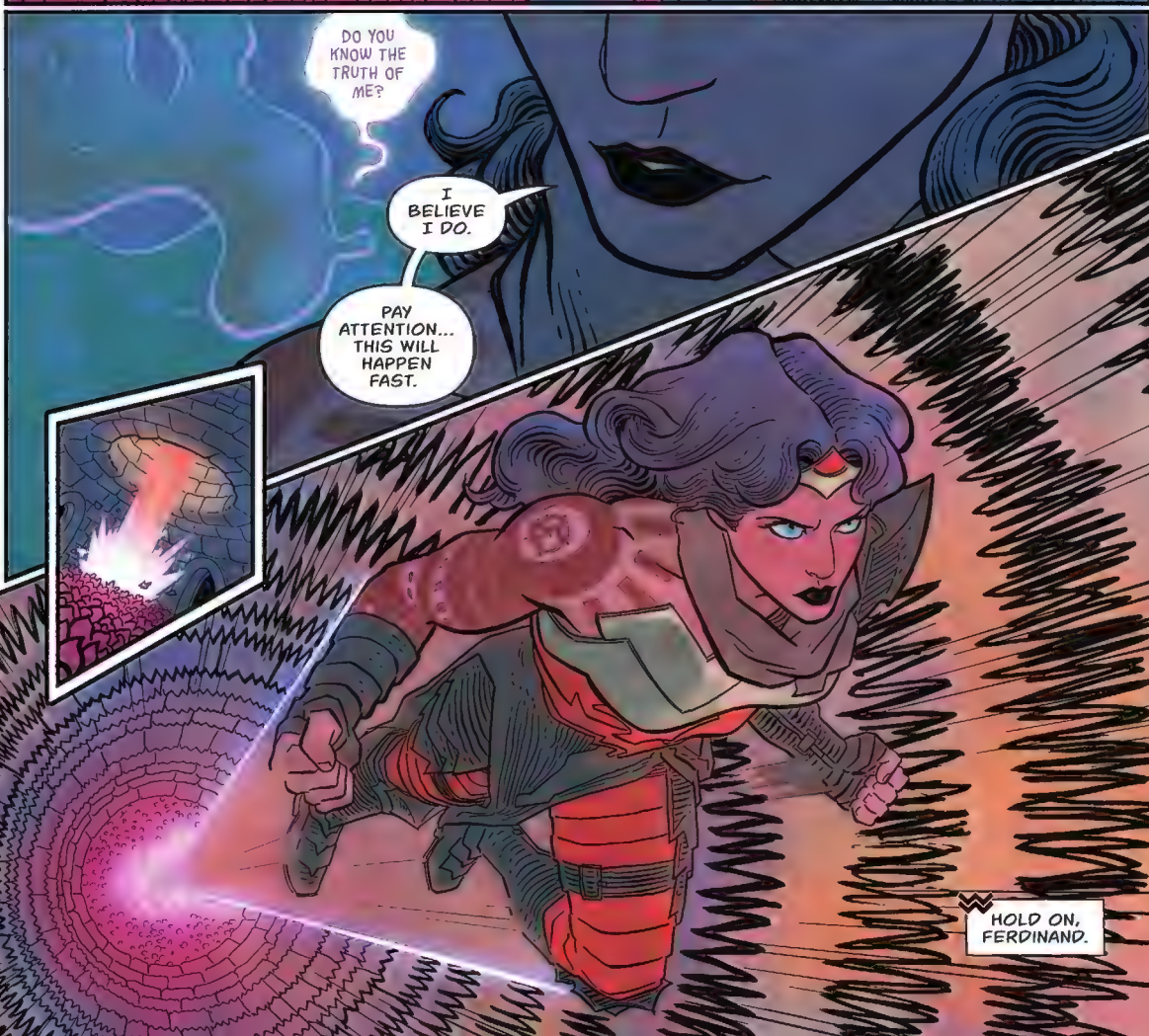


I AM
INCOMPLETE
AND CANNOT
AID YOU.

AND IF I
COMPLETE
YOU?



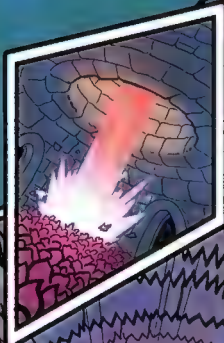
THEN
WE MIGHT
HAVE SOMETHING,
DIANA OF THE
WILD ISLE.



DO YOU
KNOW THE
TRUTH OF
ME?

I
BELIEVE
I DO.

PAY
ATTENTION...
THIS WILL
HAPPEN
FAST.



HOLD ON,
FERDINAND.





THANK YOU, DIANA.

CAN YOU MOVE?

I FEEL STRONG.



THEN HELP ME, BUT AVOID THROWING ANYTHING INTO THE PIT.

UNDERSTOOD.



SLICE

NNNN.



~ BOTH IO AND FERDINAND REFERRED TO CLEA AS MAD.



~ I'M COUNTING ON IT.

CLANG



CLEA, YOU ARE A MATCH FOR MANY THINGS IN THIS MAZE, BUT I AM NOT ONE OF THEM.



THE HIERON.
NOW.

PLEASE
DON'T DIE.

IF THIS IS A
DISASTER, I'M
TELLING DIANA
IT WAS YOUR
IDEA.

REAL "BAND
OF BROTHERS"
STUFF THERE,
BARBARA.

I'M
AN ONLY
CHILD.

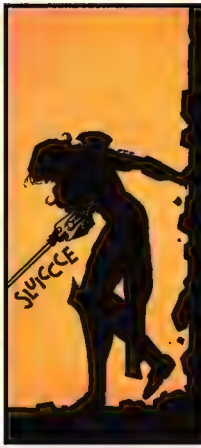
THAT
EXPLAINS
A LOT.

CAN YOU
GUYS PLEASE
SHUT UP?

IT
WORKED! SHE'S
MOVING!

OH MY
GOD. LOOK
AT HER
FACE...







IT'S OKAY.
IT'S FINE. IT'S
JUST IN THE PIT,
IT'S NOT LOST, I
CAN SEND IN SOME
OF THE BOYS. I
CAN GET IT BACK,
I CAN GET IT
BACK...I
CAN...

HERE GOES
EVERYTHING.



OH,
CLEA...



...YOU'RE
GETTING IT
BACK...



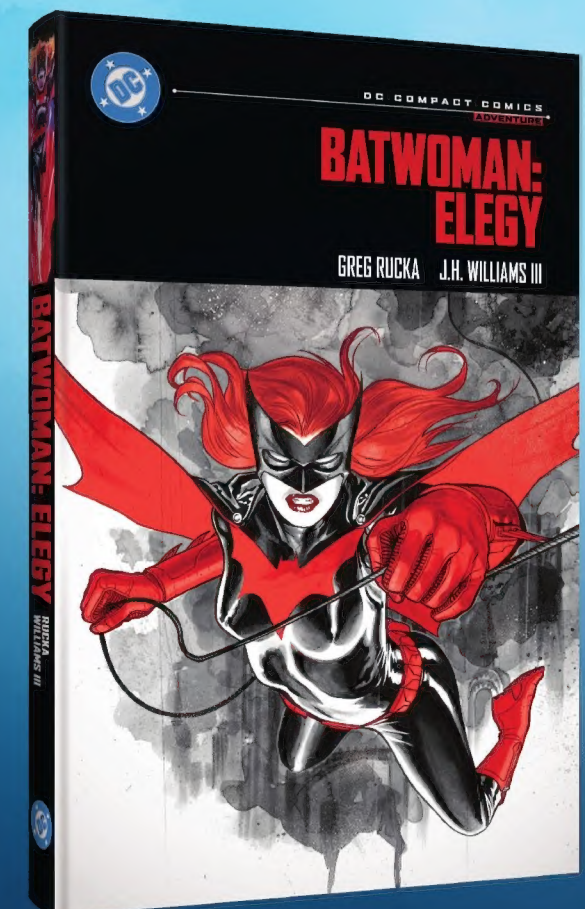
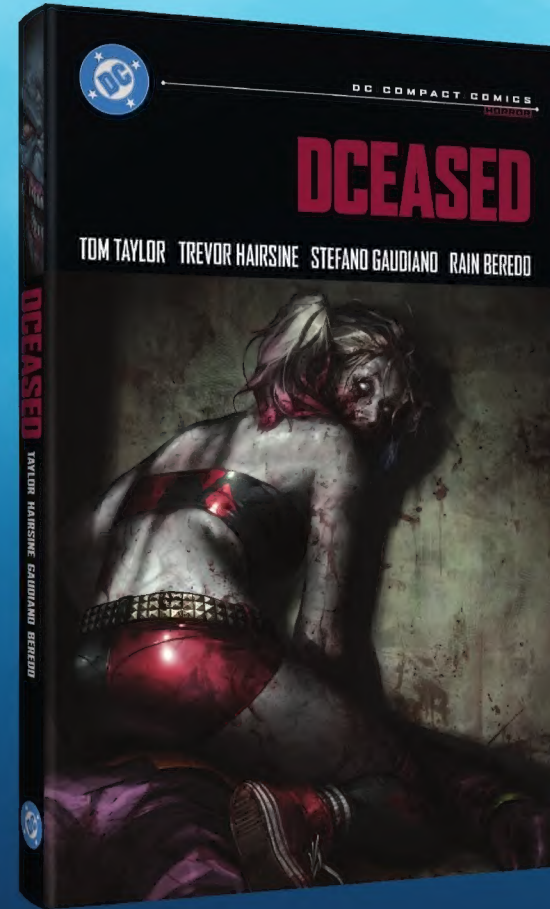
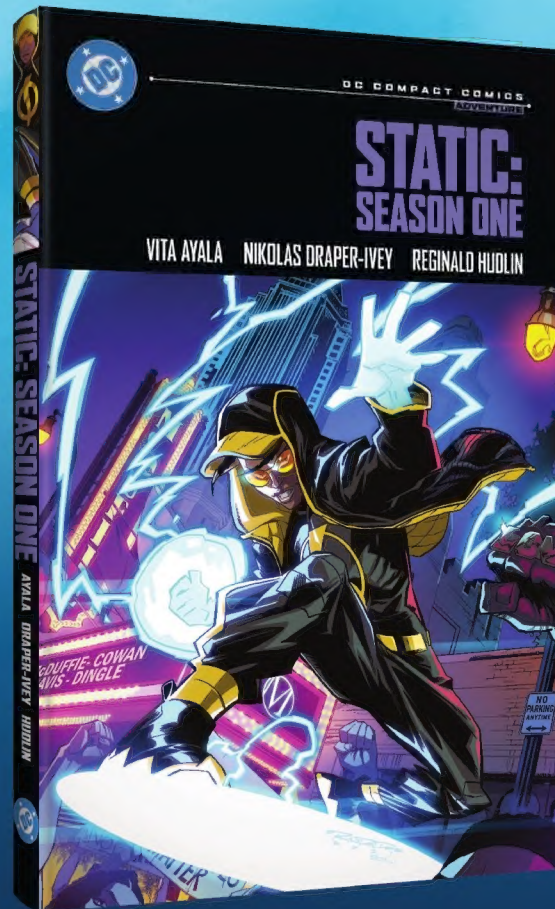
...JUST
NOT AS YOU
IMAGINED.

NEXT:
THE MAZE GIVES,
THE MAZE TAKES



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**NATION****SPOTLIGHT ON****ALL IN**

INTERVIEW WITH MATT FRACTION

Returning to a monthly DC series for the first time since the Eisner Award-winning *Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen*, writer Matt Fraction talks his plans as the new *Batman* series writer—the dream job he's trained for since he was three—and teaming with superstar artist Jorge Jiménez, someone who is very familiar with the Gotham City streets.

What is your vision for the series and the character?

Matt Fraction: Between the end of Chip Zdarsky and Jorge Jiménez's run and where things are in *HZSH*, it felt like a moment for a new day in Gotham. We got a new Batmobile, we got a new costume, we got new characters.

This is the book that brought me into comics. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for *Batman*. It was the first comic I ever read. Some part of me has been waiting to this since I was three, and I have a lot of ideas and cool stories to tell. And it's a new #1! There's only been three or four of those!



How are you looking to approach the tone of the book?

Part of the reason *Batman* has lasted as long and has resonated as loudly as he has as a character is because he's incredibly resilient. He can be all kinds of things to all different people all at the same time, whether in comics, animation, or movies.

To me, [the new *Batman* series] is *Batman* central. It's a very superhero forward take on *Batman*. There's a lot of detective-ing, there's a lot of supervillains. All the stuff that makes *Batman* the coolest character in comics. I want to celebrate it all and give it all a chance to shine.

We're doing self-contained issues. Each issue is a full beginning, middle, end, and builds as the series goes. Every issue is a new adventure, a new style, a new flavor, a new take.



What's it like working with Jorge Jiménez?

He's a dream. He's incredible. He's fast. He's brilliant. There's nothing I've thrown at him so far that he's not been able to draw. Both of us are trying to make this the *Batman* book we most wish we can read in the world, and it's a whole lot of fun.



Which villains are you excited to write?

Killer Croc is in the first issue. Croc has gone through some changes with all the changes happening in Gotham. We have new villains coming—a lot of classic villains as well.



**DON'T MISS
BATMAN #1,
ON SALE SEPTEMBER!**

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